



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
 @ Brandeis University
 Rapaporte Seminar: Brandeis at BOLLI



The Winter's Tale

Faculty

William Flesch, Ph.D.
 Brandeis University

Monday through Friday
 January 5th to January 9th, 2009
 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Lurias in Hassenfeld at Brandeis University

The Winter's Tale Late in his career Shakespeare wrote four plays in a row that don't seem to fall into the general categories of comedy, tragedy, and history. They have come to be called romances, partly because of the bittersweet melancholy of their atmosphere. Of these plays, *The Tempest* is the most well-known, but its immediate predecessor, *The Winter's Tale*, is probably even deeper. (Ingmar Bergman directed it at the end of his career.) These late plays are about the passage of time and the transition from youth to age, and come out of deeply personal experience on Shakespeare's part: experience of how injustice, anger, sadness, and forgiveness take time to work themselves out, and the way they work themselves out in time. The guiding theme of the play is reconciliation: being reconciled with those you've wronged or who have wronged you; being reconciled with your children's independence; being reconciled with your own mortality. Reconciliation doesn't mean joy, but it doesn't mean tragedy either, and that's what makes the atmosphere of late Shakespeare so "rich and strange." In this course we will follow our customary practice of covering an act a day of the play, so that we'll go over all five acts in the course of the week.

William Flesch, Ph.D. William Flesch, Ph.D., is a professor of English at Brandeis, where he teaches courses on Shakespeare as well as the history of poetry. He is the author, most recently, of "Facts on File Companion to 19th Century English Poetry" (forthcoming), as well as of "Comeuppance: Costly Signaling, Altruistic Punishment and Other Biological Components of Fiction" (2008): a paperback edition is coming out in March. Among his many other publications are "Generosity and the Limits of Authority: Shakespeare, Herbert, Milton" (Cornell University Press, 1992), "Keats Reading Shakespeare," "Quoting Poetry," "Vicarious Experience in Shakespeare's Sonnet" and "Helen Vendler's *The Art of Shakespeare's Sonnets*," as well as articles for the Boston Globe Ideas section. He is the recipient of three teaching awards at Brandeis and Cornell and a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship. "Billy" has led three previous Rapaporte Seminars: Brandeis at BOLLI on *King Lear*, *Hamlet* and *The Merchant of Venice* to rave reviews.

REGISTRATION for The Winter's Tale
 (Space is limited. Register early.)

Make check payable for \$185 to Brandeis University
 Send registration and check to:

Rapaporte Seminar: Brandeis at BOLLI, MS 085, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA 02454-9110

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Questions? Contact Mary Ann Sliwa
 781-736-2175 or masliwa@brandeis.edu

If you are not a BOLLI member, please tell us if you are:

- A BUNWC Member?
- A Brandeis Alum?
- How you heard about the program?